What is claimed is:

1   1. A method for delivering a communications service

2 feature to a party communicating through a network,

3 comprising the steps of:

4   determining if the party is a subscriber of the

5 communications service feature based on an identifier

6 associated with the party and a first database containing a

7 subset of subscriber identifiers;

8   verifying that the identifier associated with the party

9 is in the subset of identifiers that would be included in

10 said first database if the party is a subscriber;

11   for those identifiers that are not in said first

12 database and that are not in the subset of identifiers that

13 would be included in said first database, querying a second

14 database containing all subscriber identifiers to determine

15 if the party is a subscriber; and

16   providing the communications service feature if the

17 party is a subscriber.

1   2. The method of claim 1, wherein said network is the

2 public switched telephone network.

1   3. The method of claim 2, wherein the identifiers are

2 telephone numbers.

1   4. The method of claim 3, wherein said communications

2   service feature is Positive Call Processing.

1   5.   The method of claim 3, wherein said first database
2   contains subscriber telephone numbers for a number of area
3   codes, and the subset of telephone numbers that would be
4   included in said first database if the party is a subscriber
5   are subscriber telephone numbers having one of said number of
6   area codes.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the telephone numbers
2   that are not in said first database and that do not have one
3   of said number of area codes represent calls that are not
4   associated with a particular geographic area.

1   7.   The method of claim 3, wherein said step of
2   determining is performed using an automatic number
3   identification trigger table in a communications switch.

1   8.   The method of claim 5, wherein said step of
2   verifying is performed using an access number plan area table
3   in a communications switch.

1   9.   The method of claim 4, wherein said communications
2   service feature is provided by a provider and further
3   comprising the step of:
4   verifying that the provider controls information for
5   billing the party and wherein said step of providing positive

6 call processing is only performed if the party is a

7 subscriber and the provider controls information for billing

8 the party.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of

2 verifying that the provider controls information for billing

3 the party is based on a transaction capabilities part begin

4 message from a No. 4 electronic switching system switch.

1 11. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step

2 of:

3 determining if a wireless telephone number for which the

4 communications service feature can be provided is associated

5 with the party and wherein said step of providing the

6 communication service feature is only performed if a wireless

7 telephone number for which the communications service feature

8 can be provided is associated with the party and the party is

9 a subscriber.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the determination

2 is based on an information indicator/originating line

3 information code indicating type 2A access.

1 13. An apparatus delivering a communications service

2 feature to a party communicating through a network,

3 comprising:

4 means for determining if the party is a subscriber of

5   the communications service feature based on an identifier

6   associated with the party and a first database containing a

7   subset of subscriber identifiers;

8   means for verifying that the identifier associated with

9   the party is in the subset of identifiers that would be

10 included in said first database if the party is a subscriber;

11   means for querying a second database containing all

12 subscriber identifiers to determine if the party is a

13 subscriber for those identifiers that are not in said first

14 database and that are not in the subset of identifiers that

15 would be included in said first database; and

16   means for providing the communications service feature

17 if the party is a subscriber.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said network is

2   the public switched telephone network.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the identifiers

2   are telephone numbers.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said

2   communications service feature is Positive Call Processing.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said first

2   database contains subscriber telephone numbers for a number

3   of area codes, and the subset of telephone numbers that would

4   be included in said first database if the party is a

1 subscriber are telephone numbers having one of said number of

2 area codes.

1   18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the telephone

2 numbers that are not in said first database and that do not

3 have one of said number of area codes represent wireless

4 calls.

1   19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said means for

2 determining uses an automatic number identification trigger

3 table in a communications switch.

1   20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said means for

2 verifying uses an access number plan area table in a

3 communications switch.

1   21. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said

2 communications service feature is provided by a provider and

3 further comprising:

4   means for verifying that the provider controls

5 information for billing the party and wherein said means for

6 providing only provides Positive Call Processing if the party

7 is a subscriber and the provider controls information for

8 billing the party.

1   22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said means for

2 verifying that the provider controls information for billing

3 the party is based on a transaction capabilities part begin

4 message from a communications switch.

1   23. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

2   means for determining that a wireless telephone number

3 for which the communications service feature can be provided

4 is associated with the party and wherein said means for

5 providing only provides the communications service feature if

6 a wireless telephone number for which the communications

7 service feature can be provided is associated with the party

8 and the party is a subscriber.

1   24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the

2 determination is based on an information

3 indicator/originating line information code indicating type

4 2A access.

1   25. A system for determining if a party communicating

2 through the public switched telephone network is a subscriber

3 of a communications service feature, comprising:

4   a communications switch serving a number of area codes,

5 comprising:

6   an area code database containing each of said

7 number of area codes, and

8   a first database containing the subset of

9 subscriber telephone numbers having an area code equal to one

10 of said number of area codes;

11   a second database containing all subscriber telephone

12 numbers; and

13   a processor in communication with said communications

14 switch and said second database, wherein said processor

15 queries said second database to determine if the party is a

16 subscriber when a telephone number associated with the party

17 is not in said first database and an area code associated

18 with said party in not in said area code database.

26.   The system of claim 25, wherein said communications

service feature is Positive Call Processing.

1   27.   The system of claim 26, wherein said first database

2 is an automatic number identification trigger table.

1   28.   The system of claim 27, wherein said area code

2 database is an access number plan area table.

1   29.   The system of claim 27, wherein said communications

2 service feature is provided by a provider and said processor

3 verifies that the provider controls information for billing

4 the party.

1   30.   The system of claim 29, wherein said processor

2 determines if a wireless telephone number for which the

3 communications service feature can be provided is associated

4 with the party.

1   31. The system of claim 30, wherein the determination

2 is based on an information indicator/originating line

3 information code indicating type 2A access.

1   32. A computer readable medium having stored thereon

2 instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the

3 processor to perform steps for delivering a communications

4 service feature to a party communicating through a network,

5 said steps comprising:

6   determining if the party is a subscriber of the

7 communications service feature based on a telephone number

8 associated with the party and a first database containing a

9 subset of subscriber telephone numbers;

10   verifying that the telephone number associated with the

11 party is in the subset of telephone numbers that would be

12 included in said first database if the party is a subscriber;

13   for those telephone numbers that are not in said first

14 database and that are not in the subset of telephone numbers

15 that would be included in said first database, querying a

16 second database containing all subscriber telephone numbers

17 to determine if the party is a subscriber; and

18   providing the communications service feature if the

19 party is a subscriber.

1   33. A method for delivering a communications service

2 feature to a party communicating through a network,

3   comprising the steps of:

4   determining if the party is a subscriber of the

5   communications service feature based on a telephone number

6   associated with the party and a first database containing a

7   subset of subscriber telephone numbers based on the area

8   codes associated with said subscriber telephone numbers;

9   verifying that the telephone number associated with the

10 party has an area code such that the telephone number would

11 be included in said first database if the party is a

12 subscriber;

13   for those telephone numbers that represent calls not

14 associated with a particular geographic region, as indicated

15 by a telephone number not being in said first database and

16 not being in the subset of telephone numbers that would be

17 included in said first database, querying a second database

18 containing all subscriber telephone numbers to determine if

19 the party is a subscriber; and

20   providing the communications service feature if the

21 party is a subscriber.

1   34.   The method of claim 33, wherein said network is the

2   public switched telephone network.

1   35.   The method of claim 34, wherein said communications

2   service feature is Positive Call Processing.

1   36.   An apparatus for delivering a communications

2   service feature to a party communicating through a network,

3   comprising:

4   means for determining if the party is a subscriber of

5   the communications service feature based on a telephone

6   number associated with the party and a first database

7   containing a subset of subscriber telephone numbers based on

8   the area codes associated with said subscriber telephone

9   numbers;

10   means for verifying that the telephone number associated

11   with the party has an area code such that the telephone

12   number would be included in said first database if the party

13   is a subscriber;

14   for those telephone numbers that represent calls not

15   associated with a particular geographic region, as indicated

16   by a telephone number not being in said first database and

17   not being in the subset of telephone numbers that would be

18   included in said first database, means for querying a second

19   database containing all subscriber telephone numbers to

20   determine if the party is a subscriber; and

21   means for providing the communications service feature

22   if the party is a subscriber.

1   37.   The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said network is

2   the public switched telephone network.

1   38.   The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said

2   communications service feature is Positive Call Processing.